

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11742

FROM AGATT FOR USDA PASS FAS GRAIN AND FEED DIV., AND PARKER,
ERS
DACCA FOR FEJFAR
BOMBAY FOR CLENDENEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, IN
SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: NEW DELHI 11413

1. MONSOON ACTIVITY DECLINED CONSIDERABLY DURING THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 17 WHEN COMPARED TO THE VIGOROUS PERFORMANCE OF THE PAST WEEK. THE NUMBER OF WEATHER ZONES RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL FELL TO 14 FROM 20, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 35. THE FIRST BREAK IN MONSOON ACTIVITY OCCURRED DURING THE WEEK BRINGING REDUCED PRECIPITATION OVER MUCH OF THE COUNTRY.

2. DURING THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 17, 1977, AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL WERE: ARUNACHAL PRADESH, ASSAM AND MEGHALAYA, NORTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR, HILLS OF WEST UTTAR PRADESH, PUNJAB, HIMACHAL PRADESH, SOUTHEAST MAHARASHTRA, ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, AND KARNATAKA EXCLUDING COASTAL REGION. RAINFALL OVER REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS DEFICIENT TO

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SCANTY VARYING FROM 21 PERCENT IN SOUTHERN BIHAR TO 99 PERCENT IN WESTERN RAJASHTHAN (BELOW NORMAL).

3. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL FROM JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 17, 1977 WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL IN BAY ISLANDS, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, ASSAM AND MEGHALAYA, WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH, HARYANA, PUNJAB, HIMACHAL PRADESH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, RAJASTHAN,

MADHYA PRADESH, GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA(EXCLUDING SOUTHEAST AREAS), ANDHRA PRADESH, TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA, AND LAKSHADWEEP. RAINFALL OVER BALANCE OF COUNTRY WAS BELOW NORMAL RANGING FROM 20 PERCENT IN KERALA TO 30 PERCENT IN MAGALAND, MANIPUR, MIZORAM AND TRIPURA. THE ABOVE WEATHER ZONES WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR 97 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION (COMPARED TO 90 PERCENT IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1976), USING AS A BASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71. PRECIPITATION IN THE CURRENT SEASON IS MORE TIMELY AND EVENLY DISTRIBUTED COMPARED TO THE INCONSISTENT BEHAVIOR OF THE PREVIOUS SEASON. NORTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL (THOUGH NOT AN IMPORTANT RICE PRODUCING REGION) WHICH EARLIER HAD BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL MADE UP FOR THIS DEFICIENCY DURING THE WEEK AND CLASSIFIED FOR INCLUSION (FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CURENT SEASON) IN THE NORMAL CATEGORY. THIS REGION IS STILL CONSIDDRED TO BE ONLY "ARGINALLY NORMAL " AND WEAKENED MONSOON ACTIVITY DURING THE COMING WEEKS COULD BRING DOWN ITS RECENTLY GAINED STATUS.

4. PARTS OF HARYANA, ASSAM AND BIHAR STILL CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE FLOOD CONDITIONS. HARYANA IS CURRENTLY MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED STATE AND LARGELY CONCENTRATED ON BORDER WITH UNION TERRITORY OF DELHI.

5. THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE SO FAR HAS BEEN FAVORABLE OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. THE CURRENT DIMINISHMENT IN MONSOON ACTIVITY
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WILL PROVE BENEFICIAL FOR KHARIF CROPS. IF MONSOON CONTINUES FAVORABLE THROUGH SEPTEMBER, KHARIF CROP PROSPECTS FORTHE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE CAN BE RATED AS BETTER THAN LAST YEAR. WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE THE 1977-78 KHARIF CROP PRODUCTION BETWEEN 68 TO 72 MILLION METRIC TONS COMPARED TO LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF 66-67 MILLION METRIC TONS.GOHEEN

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